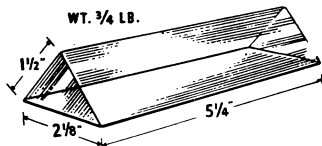


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PHYSICS

Hydrogen Power Studies Aid Space Propulsion

► **WHEN MAN** starts navigating to the moon and other planets in space ships, studies of how to tame the fearsome power of hydrogen bomb reactions for peaceful purposes may result in a feasible method of ion propulsion. (See p. 67.)

This possibility was foreseen by Dr. James L. Tuck, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory physicist who did some of the pioneering work aimed at controlling thermonuclear reactions. Ionic propulsion would not help in lifting a space ship off the earth's surface, he said, but it could be a good way of obtaining high thrust without carrying a lot of fuel.

Dr. Tuck said the tricks learned in making a "magnetic bottle" for confining the hot gases in a peaceful hydrogen power station could probably also be applied in space propulsion. The ship could shoot rearward gases at much higher temperature with such new techniques than any material now known could withstand.

Essential to controlled hydrogen power is an understanding of magnetohydrodynamics, the study of the interaction of magnetic fields and fluids or gases. A by-product of these studies, Dr. Tuck predicted, could be a means of traveling in space without using up a great deal of mass.

He said that even if a thermonuclear reactor could not be built to produce power economically, it might prove worthwhile for space navigation.

Science News Letter, February 1, 1958

SAVE TIME—MONEY—MATERIALS ON HOME REPAIRS and SHOP JOBS!



BENDS WIRE into dozens of shapes!

"Handi-Bender" holds wire while you bend angles, coils, spirals, curves, centered and off-centered eyes, etc. in a jiffy. Bends steel or softer wire up to 5/32" (6 gauge). Made of solid aluminum: 1" x 5/8" x 4 7/8". Screw to bench or hold in vise. Instructions and patterns for many projects included.

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PRECISION OILER

for small equipment
Oils small, inaccessible parts. Butyrate oil chamber with stainless steel spout 1" long, .0035" diameter. Comes filled with oil. Refillable. Overall length, 5". Has carrying clip on cap.

DELIVERED (2 for \$1.85) **98¢**

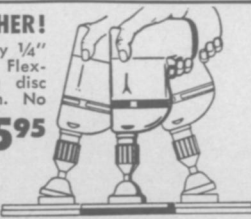


SAND FASTER—SMOOTHER!

SAND-O-PLANE attaches to any 1/4" or larger portable electric drill. Flexible ball-joint keeps sanding disc FLAT on work. Rotary action. No gouging, swirls. Complete with 3 grit discs and buffing bonnet. DELIVERED—

\$5.95

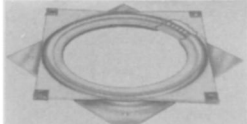
EXTRA 4" GRIT DISCS
Aluminum Oxide—Packs of 5
Coarse 50c; Med. 50c; Fine 50c



LAZY SUSAN BEARINGS

Use these to make and assemble revolving fixtures, tables, cabinets, games, etc. All steel with stamped and interlocked sections. Only 5/16" between surfaces. Precision-made steel ball bearings; no wobbling. With directions.

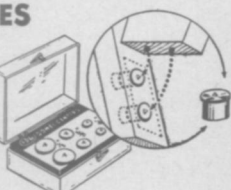
\$1.00 3-INCH for turn-
tables up to 18" dia. \$1.60 — 6" (turntables 15" to 30")
\$4.00 — 12" (turntables up to 60")



MATCH DOWEL HOLES PERFECTLY!

Quick, positive alignment of mating units. Drill holes in one piece; insert dowel centers. Press mating piece against points to inscribe positions for opposite holes. Box with 3 pairs: 1/4", 3/8", 1/2".

DELIVERED **\$1.00**



SOFTENS PUTTY — FAST ELECTRICALLY!



Delivered **\$3.50**

Softens old putty in sash for easy removal. Quick heat attacks putty. Will not injure sash or glass. 9" long, 6 1/2 oz. 110 volts, A.C.



SAVE PAINT & TIME with "No-Mus" can tops!

Slip flexible polyethylene "No-Mus" top over rim of open paint can—qt. or gal. Ends slopping. Extended height saves paint when stirring; stops loss when pouring. Flat edge for wiping brush. Easy to clean. Use over and over.

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STEP REST fits any round ladder rung giving a 12 3/8" x 7" step. Two hooks fit over next higher rung. Safety chain. Heavy aluminum.

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IT'S EASY TO PAINT WINDOW SASH!



Do a professional job yourself with new brush guide that keeps paint off glass. Ideal for trim, moulding, too. Spring-swivel guard plate works in either direction. Comes with 1" replaceable, pure-bristle brush. Instructions. DELIVERED (Both Guide & Brush) **\$2.95**

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Plane-type handle fits all files, slips on or off in one second. Saves file by using entire cutting surface. Gives uniform pressure throughout stroke. Hands don't touch work. Made of lightweight, cast aluminum.

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MEDICINE

Experts to Study "Laughing Death"

► **PRIMITIVE** people are literally laughing themselves to death in New Guinea.

Adelaide University, Sydney, Australia, is sending a medical team to New Guinea to conduct research into the "Laughing Death" disease.

The disease, known locally as KURU, is killing members of the Fore people in the eastern highlands of New Guinea.

Dr. Hugh N. Robson, professor of medicine, visited New Guinea in November when the first occurrence of the strange disease was reported. He will conduct further study of the disease early this year.

The research has so far revealed that about one native in 100 contracts the disease, and about 100 new cases occur each year, attacking mainly children and young women.

The first report of the disease in New Guinea said that natives "laughed their heads off" until they died.

Science News Letter, February 1, 1958

Instruments used to check the electronic and mechanical systems in aircraft and missiles can measure the width of a hair at a distance equal to the length of a football field.